

Remarks

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 9 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 5,867,996 to Takano et al. (hereinafter Takano) in view of US Patent 6,742,350 to Suzuki et al. (hereinafter Suzuki) and further in view of US Patent 3,868,869 to Hunt et al. (hereinafter Hunt). Claim 1 has now been amended to more clearly state that the engine can be varied over a broad range of speeds. It is submitted that claim 1 now distinguishes over references because none disclose this limitation. More particularly Takano merely discloses an engine that at best can be varied only between on and off speeds.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 2 and 3 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claim 1 and further in view of US Patent No. 6,234,769 to Sakai et al. and claim 4 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claim 1 and further in view of US Patent No. 5,628,234 to Crook et al. (hereinafter Crook). For the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 9 it is submitted that claims 2-4 are also in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephonic conference would be useful in furthering the present application toward allowance, the undersigned attorney would welcome such a call.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present paper may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525.

Respectfully,

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